



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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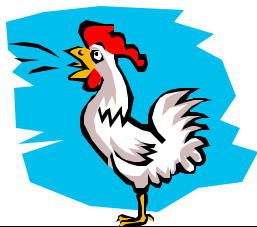
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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was generally reported as steady to barely steady. However, majority prices in the major terminal markets were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Retail demand was seasonally slow as interest remains mostly on holiday items. Some traders were anticipating next week's movement to improve. Food service was fair to good, best into fast food outlets. Supplies were adequate to available, but in a better balance position as several plants were closed. In the parts structure, trading and movement were generally light. Offerings were usually sufficient for trade needs. In production areas, live supplies were light to moderate at irregular, but mostly desirable weights.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 4/24-04/29/00 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A (Including branded product)			COMPOSITE WTD	
AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	AVG	LOADS
Chicago	42.00-46.00	38.00-60.00	46.05	22
Los Angeles	62.00			
New York	53.00-56.00			

Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent

Mississippi	57.00-59.00	44.00-60.00	57.09	79
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GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 57.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
561	52.18-59.25	57.10

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
BREASTS - B/S	139.50	3,895
BREASTS - WHOLE	75.00	1,740
THIGH MEAT - B/S	99.00	601
LEG QUARTERS	19.00	7,680
WINGS	52.00	2,631

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was generally steady. Movement was light to moderate mostly light as interest was generally seasonal and on holiday items. Supplies were usually sufficient to satisfy present needs although some plants were closed for Good Friday. In the parts complex, availability was at least adequate for the light to moderate buying interest. Tray pack wings at some locations were short of full needs. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Trading for next week's deliveries reported on wholebody with giblets at unchanged prices and without giblets unchanged to somewhat lower prices. Offerings in fairly good balance due to reduced holiday slaughter schedules. Retail demand was light to moderate for wholebody and moderate to fairly good for parts. Dealers anticipated moderate weekend carryovers. Trade sentiment was weak on bone-in breasts and wings generally steady on balance of parts. Reported trading on parts for delivery into S. CA - bulk leg quarters mainly 19.5-20, bone-in breasts 70-75.5 and boneless breasts 140.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into Chicago were unchanged from last Monday's final. Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Offerings of wogs were readily available, whole birds limited with buyers usually disinterested. Retail movement continued slow and typical for mid-month, little optimism for large increases in demand next week. Food service demand was mixed, mostly fair, occasionally fairly good into fast food and where features active. Floor stocks generally well cleared, sizes desirable. Parts trading limited and selective on all items. Supplies were adequate to ample for trade needs with discounts noted on most items. Trade sentiment was steady on thighs, barely steady to weak on the remainder of items.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYER Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light and unaggressive. Offerings were more than sufficient for current needs with 2.5 pound sizes readily available and slow in clearing. Retail and distributive movement was mostly light. The market tone was steady to barely steady. In the parts market, bone-in breast were available. All other items were at least adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased slightly entering the weekend but remained seasonally light and unaggressive overall. Seller offerings were fully sufficient to handle current needs, particularly on the 2.5 pound sizes which generally slow in clearing. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights were mixed in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were very light as several plants closed in observance of the religious holiday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 56 to 68 cents. Trade sentiment was about steady. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A		
RANGE		52-68
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		59.41
NO. OF BOXES		7,757
CUMULATIVE	04/17/00-04/21/00	59.43
	04/19/99-04/23/99	49.82
NO. OF BOXES	04/17/00-04/21/00	39,282
	04/19/99-04/23/99	32,410

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

APR 20, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

APR 21, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE			(000)	RANGE			(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	673	125.00-196.00	127-135	132.61	683	127.00-196.00	130-135	135.58	3,041	134.18
TENDERLOINS	97	135.00-195.00	-	150.31	185	128.00-200.00	-	170.27	587	161.30
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	68.00-78.00	-	68.84	167	68.00-78.00	-	72.79	663	72.17
FRONT HALVES	75	55.00-60.00	-	57.33	38	58.00-61.00	-	58.25	358	59.16
LEGS	52	27.00-34.00	27-28	28.62			TOO FEW TO REPORT		208	28.62
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	419	16.00-18.00	16-17	16.38	362	14.00-18.00	16-17	16.72	2,084	16.38
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,140	18.00-20.00	19-20	19.19	1,373	18.00-20.00	19-20	19.08	6,132	19.08
WINGS (WHOLE)	98	44.00-56.00	46-48	48.16	418	48.00-56.00	49-51	51.87	700	51.72
WINGS (CUT)	517	51.00-73.00	59-60	59.53	482	52.00-73.00	58-61	59.20	2,316	61.16
DRUMSTICKS		TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT		38	34.00
THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT		110	34.00
B/S THIGHS		TOO FEW TO REPORT					TOO FEW TO REPORT		15	96.54

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR APR 20, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE****AVERAGE**

35.50 - 39.00

36.86

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR APR 21, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S**RANGE****AVERAGE**

36.00 - 39.50

37.49

5-DAY**AVERAGE**

37.74

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity improved slightly entering the weekend but was still no better than fair. Offerings were more than sufficient for trade needs. Movement into retail and distributive channels was slow to fair, best where features were in progress. The market tone was barely steady for bone-in breast. Steady to barely steady on the balance..

PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

APR 20, 2000

CURRENT NEG**WTD**

ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	137.83	462,880
TENDERLOINS	130-135	144.47	88,200
BREAST - WITH RIBS	61-62	72.75	228,040
BREAST - LINE RUN	61	60.90	171,040
LEGS	29-30	32.98	205,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	20.13	346,195
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	33.29	104,310
THIGHS	28-29	32.72	82,090
B/S THIGHS	86-87	91.69	55,130
WINGS (WHOLE)	48-49	58.49	244,000
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	60,640
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.79	55,280
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.99	69,000

CURRENT NEG**WTD**

ITEM	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS	WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	147.15	83,120	138.36	1,811,160
TENDERLOINS	130-135	144.40	15,120	139.39	384,200
BREAST - WITH RIBS	61-62	76.88	61,400	75.53	749,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	61	61.67	108,080	62.88	717,120
LEGS	29-30	31.71	116,440	32.51	835,800
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	18-19	23.20	123,283	20.85	1,214,118
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	37.29	41,870	34.35	430,170
THIGHS	28-29	33.49	25,000	33.11	292,290
B/S THIGHS	86-87	91.44	62,600	92.46	212,140
WINGS (WHOLE)	48-49	62.09	80,600	58.80	851,480
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	Too few to report		11.94	226,845
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	31.30	7,680	34.18	211,080
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	40-45	44.65	13,680	44.91	291,440

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL WTS	
	04/21	04/20	04/19	04/18	04/19	04/18	04/14	04/12
ALA	2,754	3,844	3,597	3,832	4.94	5.11	3,707	4.94
ARK	4,181	5,151	5,182	5,176	4.86	4.91	5,180	4.91
DELMARVA	1,620	2,364	2,350	2,361	5.15	5.21	2,060	5.07
KY-LA-TN	1,491	2,053	2,073	1,963	4.43	4.45	2,349	4.22
MISS	2,269	2,790	2,407	2,542	5.00	5.10	2,961	5.05
NC	1,880	2,537	2,580	2,515	5.78	6.01	2,182	5.78
TEXAS	2,206	2,251	2,292	2,115	4.81	4.86	1,945	4.88
TOTAL	16,401	20,990	20,481	20,504	4.99	5.07	20,384	5.00
MON-FRI	99,562(A)				102,258(A)			

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 21-Apr & 22-Apr-00 is estimated to be 24,538,000 down 21.28 percent from a week ago and down 24.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,173,000; last year 32,679,000) Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 22-Apr-00 is estimated to be 149,603,000 head down 3.4 percent from a week ago, and down 1.8 percent from a year ago

(Last week 154,848,000 Last year 152,325,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY,
DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA)**

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104-108
	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	95
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending Apr 8, 2000 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	32,524	38,204	44,881
Avg Weight	3.66	4.72	6.10
% of total /1	28%	33%	39%

COMPARISONS

Last week	30,629	33,997	40,399
Avg Weight	3.75	4.66	6.07
% of total /1	29%	32%	38%
Same week, yr ago /2	32,451	19,823	45,120
Avg Weight	3.80	4.83	5.98
% of total /1	33%	20%	46%
To date/2000	471,922	448,513	557,001
To date/1999	464,518	393,187	596,806

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 15-Apr-2000 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
THOUSANDS					
HEAD	154,848(A)	2,259	1,335	3,594	438
AVG WT	5.05	3.44	7.87	5.09	6.45
LAST WEEK	153,585	2,009	1,345	3,354	507
YR AGO	151,880	2,510	1,343	3,853	434
AVG WT	5.07	3.43	7.69	4.91	6.67
TO-DATE/2000	2,306,771	30,560	20,449	51,009	6,832
TO-DATE/1999	2,245,298	32,613	19,959	52,572	6,866

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 149.4 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 156.7 million head or 7.3 million head more than or 105 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: APR 18, 2000

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.60 - .72	Geese 9-14	.30 - .42
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.60 - .88	Pigeons	2.00 - 2.75ea.
Red Fowl 4-4.5	.60 - .74	White Pigeons	2.85 - 3.50ea.
Red Fowl 5-6	.60 - .82	Rabbits 4-6	.90 - 1.32
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.60 - .96	Rabbits 7-11	.80 - 1.22
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.60 - 1.06	Bunnies	1.50 - 11.00ea.
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.60 - 1.12	Guinea Pigs	2.00 - 5.50ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.10 - 1.95	Goats	30.00 - 47.00ea.
Banty Roosters	2.50 - 6.00ea.	Kid Goats	20.00 - 38.00ea.
Banty Hens	2.50 - 4.00ea.	Doves	3.50 - 6.00ea.
Leghorn Hens	.20 - .32	Pullets 4-6	.70 - .87
Silkie	2.50 - 2.85ea.		
Total Coops Sold 1,004			

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY for THE WEEK OF APRIL 17, 2000

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	54-57	54-55
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65-83	71-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Demand was moderate to good. Schedules were less than full-time because of the holiday. Sizes were in the desirable to heavy range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18 oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in leg at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40- 0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 17-APR-2000

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
MARCH 11	157.0	153.8	102	4.89
18	150.2	153.3	98	5.11
25	157.1	153.4	102	5.08
APRIL 1	158.1	152.9	103	4.97
8	155.5	150.5	103	5.03
15	156.7	149.4	105	5.05
YEAR TO DATE	2334.9	2271.4	103	
APRIL 22		149.9		
29		153.5		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 15-Apr-00

IN THOUSANDS
Broilers 3,882 HD, 19,604 lbs., Light Hens 200 HD, 652 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	THOUSANDS				
W/E	04/22/00	04/15/00	% CHG	04/24/99	% CHG
Broilers	149,603	*154,848	-03	*152,325	-02
Cattle	675	662	+02	*694	-03
Hogs	1,695	1,826	-07	*1,968	-14

Under Federal Inspection

* ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Prices were usually unchanged on light canners, and irregular on heavies when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate but unaggressive. Offerings ranged from in close balance to available. The undertone was steady on lights, and about steady to steady on heavy canners.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 25-26.5 MAJORITY	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 32.75-36 MAJORITY 35.5-36
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CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 26-28 MAJORITY 26-27	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 33.25-38 MAJORITY 37-38
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EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was light for offerings that were usually ample for schedules that ranged from normal to less than normal. Finished product was still clearing at most location. Undertone was steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of light hens. Finished sales were fair with schedules sufficient for needs. Trade sentiment was barely steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices continued unchanged. Finished product demand was light to moderate with offerings usually ample to burdensome. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment about steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules heavier. Offerings generally ample.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR	(2)
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR	(1)
<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0	(1)
Eastern Light	0	(2)
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)
No. Central Light	0-.5	(2)
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	0

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Buyers were unaggressive for offerings that were usually fully adequate for processors needs. Processing schedules were normal to heavy. Finished product was slow to clear at some locations. Undertone was about steady to steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for at least adequate offerings of spent heavy fowl. Schedules were reduced for the current week with finished sales fair. Trade sentiment was steady best.

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